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Letter from the editors

Traer Schon
taschon@iastate.edu

Meredith Kestel
Iowa State University, makestel@iastate.edu

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LETTER FROM THE EDITORS

Get ready, get set, go! Sometimes in life there are moments and times where you have to make decisions and take a leap of faith. Whether it be graduation, another big adventure like doing National Student Exchange or just trying out a new taco place, you have to be ready for change and leaving your comfort zone — even if that comfort zone is warm, cozy and filled with delicious frozen custard.

Our routines can often get us into a rut; class, work, social life, repeat. We may be ready for a change to break up the monotony of our schedule. But even if we aren't, change is inevitable, and trying to avoid it just makes us look like one of those middle-aged parents still using a flip phone. You can embrace the change head-on or you can keep your head down and hold on until the last minute.

In this issue we explore the stories of people dealing with change and shaking up their routines in different ways. Some people take on the challenge of college to make a better life for themselves. Others climb towering rock walls to keep things interesting, or find friends to help navigate life on the other side of the world. Everyone's got different ways of dealing with change or avoiding boredom in their life — for some of us, that can even mean using a magazine story as an excuse to get a new tattoo, just because we can.

Also important are the stories of people who stand up for their beliefs, in spite of being told to change. In the face of public criticism, they stand by their passions. That could be sauntering through the shimmering and glitzy, but challenging — and, to them, misunderstood — pageant world, or it could be preparing fellow students for a safe, consensual romp around in a good old-fashioned sex dungeon. As you'll see in this edition of Ethos, wherever their passion lies, these people won't let you tell them who they are, or how they should change.

When we let go of the routines in which we become entrenched, it can be a little scary. Whether it's saying goodbye to your favorite grease-filled Culver's meal before heading off to a big city, changing your major or silently swearing at reckless campus bikers one more time before graduating, it can be hard to let go. There are things we know we won't always have in our grasp, but moving on, as difficult as it can be, is healthy and a sign of growth. Isn't that why we come to college in the first place — to grow as people (freshman 15 excluded)? We hope you can move forward and grow with us as we all take on new and exciting adventures. ☺

Traci Schaefer
Meredith Kottel